

REMARKS

This Amendment filed in response to the Non-Final Office Action dated July 3, 2007, and is believed to be fully responsive to the objections and rejections raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

In the present Amendment, claims 1 - 22 are canceled without prejudice.

Claims 23 - 32 have been newly added.

No new matter has been added. Support under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for newly added claims 23 -32 can be found throughout the specification, e.g., as indicated in the chart below:

Claim	Support in the Specification
23	Page 3, lines 2 - 8, 22 - 30 and page 6, lines 11 - 13.
24	Page 3, line 10.
25	Page 3, line 13
26	Page 3, line 14.
27	Page 3, lines 15 - 21.
28	Page 4, lines 4 - 8.
29	Page 3, lines 31 - 39 and page 4, lines 1 - 8.
30	Page 4, lines 9 - 17.
31	Page 13, lines 7 - 22.
32	Page 4, lines 19 - 28.

Entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 23-32 will be all the claims pending in the application.

I. Priority Under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a) - (d)

Applicant respectfully submits a certified copy of Japanese Application No. 2003-172553, which was obtained from the Japan Patent Office, concurrently with the filing of this Amendment. The Examiner's consideration of Applicant's priority document is requested.

II. Response to Objection to the Specification

Applicant has amended the Specification to correct the typographical error in the duplicative recitations of the term "Figure 8." Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully submitted to be proper.

III. Response to Claim Objections

Claims 18, 19 and 21 were objected to as allegedly lacking antecedent basis for the terms: "said granular catalyst," "granular catalyst," and "said solid-cylindrical electrode" recited in the above-mentioned claims, respectively.

Applicant respectfully submits that the objection is rendered moot by the entry of the present Amendment wherein claims 18, 19 and 21 are canceled without prejudice. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Response to Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 12, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly

being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant respectfully submits that the objection is rendered moot by entry of this Amendment because claims 12, 19 and 20 have been canceled without prejudice. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 12, 19 and 20 is respectfully submitted to be proper.

V. Response to Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 12-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as allegedly being anticipated by Japanese Patent Publication No. 2002-336653 ("JP-653").

Claims 12 - 22 have been canceled. Thus, the rejection is rendered moot.

Additionally, Applicant traverses the rejection on the merits because claims 23 - 32 incorporate the subject matter of claims 12 and 22.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is taught in a single reference. Applicant respectfully submits that JP-653 does not teach the elements of claims 23 - 32 and therefore does not anticipate the claims. JP-653 discloses a method and an apparatus for catalytically decomposing an odor component or injurious ingredient, such as unburned fuel, hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides, or dioxins by passing the contaminated gas into a reactor that is equipped with a low temperature plasma reactor and a catalyst. In "JP-653", the catalyst may be manganese oxide with an oxide of copper.

However, JP-653 does not disclose the treatment of polluted air containing cigarette smoke, and does not disclose the hopcalite catalyst. Further, "JP-553" does not teach or

suggest that polluted air containing cigarette smoke can be effectively treated by a low temperature plasma in combination with the hopcalite catalyst. Thus, JP-653 does not teach or suggest the present invention.

VI. Information Disclosure Statement

To comply with the duty of disclosure, Applicant submits a copy of Chinese patent application publication CN2351151Y in the attached Information Disclosure Statement.

CN2351151Y discloses a process and a device for cleaning air to convert harmful compounds by a combined action of a low-temperature plasma and a catalyst. The device disclosed in CN2351151Y mainly comprises a heat exchanger B, a heater 9, a bed discharge reactor 4, a catalyst layer 7, and an air-blower 11. The bed discharge reactor 4 contains high-voltage electrodes 4-2, earth electrodes 4-3, and a medium material or a catalyst 4-1, and an oxide of Mn may be used as the catalyst.

The hopcalite catalyst is placed not in the discharge reactor 4, but in the catalyst layer 7, which is located outside of the discharge reactor 4. Therefore, CN2351151Y does not disclose that the low-temperature plasma is generated in the presence of the hopcalite catalyst.

Further, CN2351151Y does not disclose that polluted air containing cigarette smoke can be effectively treated by a low-temperature plasma generated in the presence of the hopcalite catalyst.

Furthermore, a gas to be treated is pre-heated in CN2351151Y (see claim 1), whereas polluted air containing cigarette smoke can be treated at room temperature in the present

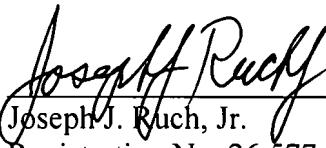
invention. For example, the temperature in the reactor is 250-310°C in Example 1 of CN2351151Y, whereas the temperature in the low-temperature plasma generating apparatus 1 is 22°C in Example 1 of the present specification. Thus, Applicant submits that CN2351151Y does not teach or suggest the present invention.

VII. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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